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May 1, 1976

Nº 699

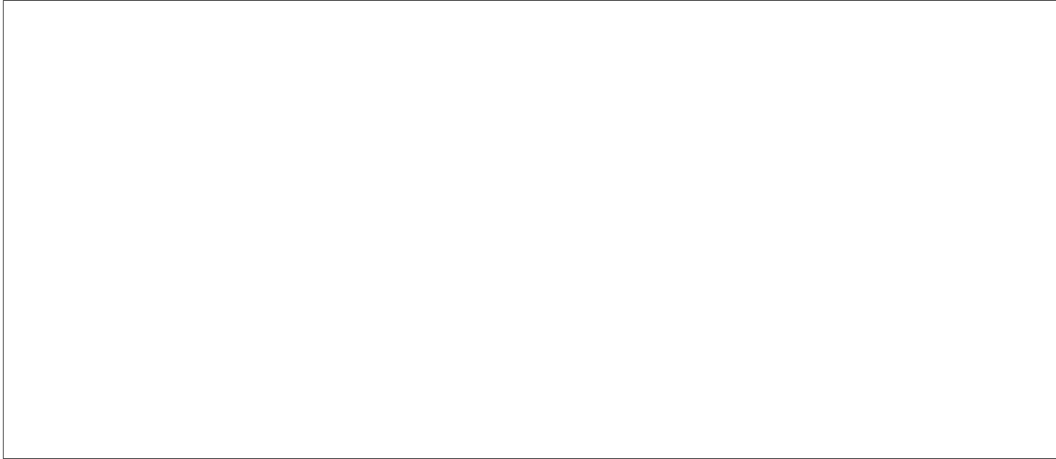
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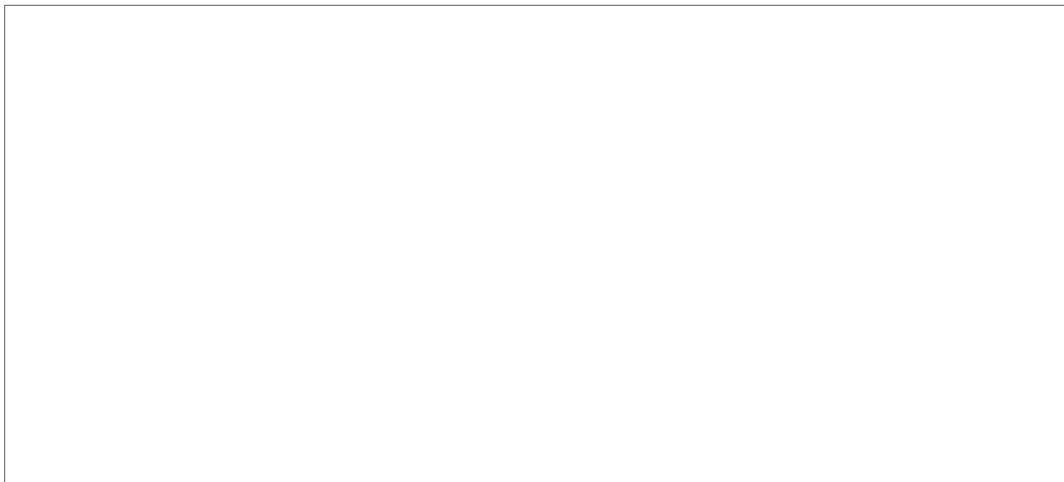
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ARGENTINA

Argentine President Videla is attempting to curb right-wing vigilante activity. In a meeting with top army officers, he sought cooperation in ending the excesses of security officials, some of whom have killed left-wing subversives. Regional army commanders responded by cracking down on the extra-legal activities of police officers, over whom the army has jurisdiction.

Right-wing violence has become a major headache for the government. Videla and the junta want to avoid international criticism and accusations of being overly repressive. Videla also wants to assert his authority at a time when some critics have accused him of becoming indecisive.

By ordering an end to right-wing violence, Videla is directly challenging military colleagues who favor drastic measures against the left. They consider vigilante activities in retaliation against left-wing terrorism to be justified. Videla's failure to contain the right could invite other challenges to his authority.

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